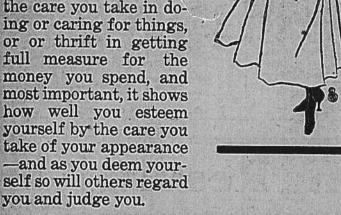
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MILITARY SURGEONS

By Frederic J. Haskin,

which the world is now passing as the era of sanitation. In the last decaue and a half, the world has learned woung American surgeon who was sent into Porto Rico. He had not been there is a month, when he announced than it had in a thousand years before. Practically all the great disthan it had in a thousand years be-fore. Practically all the great dis-

numerate a few of these stupendous accomplishments. The latest and among the biggest of them is the masery of typhoid, the disease that takes every year the heaviest toll of the peoples of the world of any of those that attack their vitals and suck away

Armies Devastated. Armies Devastated.

Typhoid has always been a disease which armies were particularly likely to get, and which ran through them most devastatingly. It has been no uncommon thing for typhoid alone to kill more men than did the enemy. This was true in the Spanish-American war. Diseases in general have alworld around and millions of people in the tropics who had previously been have the attacks of the enemy. The have the attacks of the enemy. The first war in which disease killed fewer men than did fighting was the Russon Japanesse war which conversed as men and women. so-Japanese war, which occurred atter the dawn of the era of sanitation.

In the present war in Europe disease

of humanity.

carried by files. This in itself was vastly valuable, for files might be might be screened from houses.

But the second step toward a real from the slums of that unfortunate

But the second step toward a real mastery of the typhoid question did not occur until ten years later. Then the United States heard that military surgeons abroad had developed a vaccine against typhoid. It sent an army surgeon, Major Frederick F. Russell, to Europe to study the work of England and Germany and France along this line. Major Russell found that all these nations had vaccine, but that none of them seemed reliably effective. Out of the methods of all these nations he evolved a vaccine of his own which was effective and which immediately drove typhoid from the American army. Its use was made compulsory over here and the results were so strigingly desirable that the product making immune European troops by the million and undoubtedly saved hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

Will Become Rare.

Will Become Rare. The ultimately greatest benefit of a discovery of this sort is not, of into the tropics and with the the milicourse in its application to armies but tary surgeon whose business it was to to whole peoples. There is little question but what the time will soon come when where peoples will be vaccinated against typhoid and the interest against typhoid a The story of the three army sur-

riddle of yellow fever is among the turies. most dramatic in medical annals. They had but the theory of the transmission of the disease by the mosquito. Dr. W. Lazear, in the yellow fever ward of an army field hospital, watched an infected mosquito alight upon his hand, wipe its bill with its front feet and begin the process of making an incision. He let it remain until it had drunk itself full of his blood. It was writing his death warrant, for a few days later he died in most terrible agony.

John R. Kissinger and John J. Moran were healthy young troopers from Ohio. In the face of Dr. Lazear's death they volunteers to submit themselves as subjects for further experiments. They failed to take the disease from being housed with yellow fever patients, even after sleeping in their beds. But both came down when bitten by infected mosquitoes. Both recovered. Each refused the bonus of \$100 offered them by the government. Not much was ever said of their work. But their's was heroism that brought lasting benefits to the

Big Things Made Possible.
But because of the establishment of he manner of the transmission of yel-

low fever it was made possible to dig the Panama Canal, to make Cuba hab-itable, Manila safe as a place to live, to stop the recurrence of plagues at American ports, to bring new possi-bilities to the tropical countries of all the world, to save hundreds of thous ands of lives every year on through all the decades and centuries of the

From the standpoint of the benefit derived by humanity, the discoveries f methods of fighting these two dis ases are the most important events of the present generation. Military surgeons are responsible for them.

It fell to the military surgeons of the United States to go into Manila, a plague hole of the Bat, and make it a demonstration plant of the efficiency of sanitation. There they demoncy of sanitation. There they demonstrated their theory that files, living on rats, are the bearers of bubonic plague, and freed the city of it by killing the rats—a process that has since been applied to many ports. It was there that they whipped Asiatic cholera, which had been known to kill 30,000 in a single year. It was there that they went forth and vaccel-nated 7,000,000 people and drove smallpox from the land, a process that was later repeated in Cuba and Porto Rico.

These military surgeons found an-

When the Association of Military other problem when they went to Por-When the Association of Military other problem when they went to Forsurgeons of the United States meets in Washington today, tomorrow and Wednesday for its annual convention, there will be assembled a body of men who, many hold, are responsible for the greatest good that has been accomplished in the present generation.

For, the wise ones say, the future will know the span of years through which the world is now passing as the era of sanitation. In the last decame and a half, the world has learned more of the secrets back of deadly

fore. Practically all the great discoveries that have meant the undoing of one after another of the diseases that had terrorized the world and taken tolls by the hundreds of thousands, have come about through the work of men assembled in the present convention.

It may therefore not be offered.

miserable creatures they were.
In a little while Major Ashford had developed a cure. When the cause of the disease is known the greater part of the task is usually accomplished. With a desage of thymol the parasites were banished from their victims. These worms live in the sand and enter the body through the bottoms of bare feet. Methods of keeping them out were devised.

In the present war in Europe disease is playing a lesser part than in any conflict in all history and because of the discoveries recently made by military surgeons.

It was in the Spanish-American war, when recruits were dying of typhold like poisoned ants, that the military surgeons drew the conclusion, and proved it, that the disease was carried by files. This in track was

But two surgeons of the Publi from contaminated material and the service had gone to Mexico to be screened from houses. City five years ago and there wrested

en its toll of human life. Nearly all of them came about; because the

vaccinated against typhoid and the in a decade most of the great puzzles disease will become almost unknown. of other nations which had been in seons who went to Cuba to solve the the tropics for decades and even cen-



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